

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4374

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW

SUBJECT: PRC INVITATION TO TAIWANESE SPORTSMEN

1. FOLLOWING UP ON ITS FEBRUARY 15 CIRCULAR INVITATION (HONG KONG 1714), THE PRC HAS SENT A MARCH 27 CABLE TO THREE LEADING SPORTS OFFICIALS IN TAIWAN INVITING ATHLETES FROM TAIWAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD NATIONAL PRC GAMES TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, THIS IS THE THIRD PRC INVITATION TO TAIWANESE ATHLETES AND THE SECOND PERSONAL CABLE. THE PRC HAD PREVIOUSLY INVITED TAIWANESE TO JOINT IN THE SEPTEMBER 1973 PEKING PING PONG TOURNAMENT AND IN THE TRIALS FOR THE PRC TEAM TO THE 1974 ASIAN GAMES.

2. THE PRESENT INVITATION WAS SIGNED BY TSAI HSIAO, A "LEADING MEMBER OF THE PREPARATORY OFFICE FOR THE SPORTS DELEGATION OF TAIWAN PROVINCE TO THE THIRD NATIONAL GAMES" AND A LONG-TIME MAINLAND RESIDENT. TSAI IS A NATIVE TAIWANESE, AN OFFICER OF THE PLA AIR FORCE, AND A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE CABLE USES A STRAIGHT-FORWARD INVITATION APPROACH UNTIL THE FINAL PARAGRAPH, WHICH

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CALLS FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO "ENHANCE THE UNITY OF THE

PHYSICAL CULTURE WORKERS AND SPORTSMEN OF TAIWAN PROVINCE...
AND THE REST OF THE ENTIRE CHINESE PEOPLE."

3. THE CABLE IS ADDRESSED TO A) THE AGED FORMER HEAD OF THE GRC OLYMPIC COMMITTEE YANG SEN; B) LI YU-HSI, WHO HEADS THE GRC NATIONAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION; AND C) HSIEH KUO-CHENG, A LEGISLATOR IN TAIWAN, WHO HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN BASEBALL. IN THE PRC CABLE, THESE ARE IDENTIFIED ONLY BY NAME AND NOT BY POSITION.

4. THE CHOICE OF A NATIVE TAIWANESE, WHOSE CREDENTIALS AS A SPORTSMAN ARE UNKNOWN, AS THE INVITER SEEMS IN KEEPING WITH THE THEME OF THE EVENTUAL "PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF TAIWAN" THAT HAS DOMINATED PRC COMMENTARY ON TAIWAN DURING THE FEBRUARY 28 TAIWAN UPRISING COMMEMORATION THIS YEAR IN PEKING AND THE RECENT AMNESTY OF EX-KMT "WAR CRIMINALS." A "TAIWAN" TEAM APPEARS ASSURED. THE INVITATION POINTS OUT THAT ATHLETES FROM TAIWAN WOULD BE JOINING "THOSE OF TAIWAN PROVINCE ORIGIN RESIDING ON THE MAINLAND, IN HONG KONG AND MACAU AND OVERSEAS." THUS, THE PRC APPARENTLY IS NOT COUNTING ON ATHLETES RESIDING IN TAIWAN BUT IS PROBABLY PREPARED TO GIVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO PARTICIPATION OF "TAIWANESE" FROM OTHER AREAS DURING THE COMPETITION, POSSIBLY WITH THE OLD FORMER KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" CHEERING THEM ON.
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